

hardly, however, a small hole in the dike. \$5 million is not a small hole. Senator Pappas may think it is peanuts. He is usually dealing with three figures when he is talking about the millions he would spend on his bills. However, for those of us who usually don't work with three figure amounts when we are talking millions, we think \$5 million is a significant amount. In the event this Legislature for other employees not directly responsible to us acknowledges the notion of full benefits on early retirement, it is simply a matter of time before every other group looks to us, especially our own employees, for that same benefit. When Social Security was organized, there were 13 working people for every retired person. Currently we are at 7 working people for every retired person. By the end of the century, we expect it to be...I am sorry, I thought it was 7 now. I thought it was 4 at the end of the century. I could be wrong. Maybe I have got those figures reversed. Maybe it is 4...John is holding up four fingers like this. I don't know if it means steal or bunt or hit and run...4 working people for every retired person and this Legislature says take the brakes off. Let's move people into retirement more quickly. Let's send a signal to every other employee group that it is fine to retire and what we are going to have over time is a nation of workers supporting an almost identical number of retired people. That is what happens when you have unfunded liability and there is unfunded liability when you have early retirement at full benefits because it means you haven't paid in to pay the piper. LB 457 is bad policy. It is good politics. I know that. All my colleagues today received a note from home saying you vote for 457 and we will guarantee you will be reelected. That was the phone message from their home district. I know it is good politics, but we have to stand here for, not only the moment, but for our term and our accomplishments have to stand the test of time and this will not stand the test of examination by our own critics and ourselves once the temporary impetus of the election passes. We are going to ruefully nod our head and say, "Yup, we shouldn't have passed early retirement at full benefits. I knew it at the time but that is the breaks." And we are going to be hounded by this from now on out if we take this step. I would urge you to amend LB 457 with this amendment, to